

HENRY COUNTY

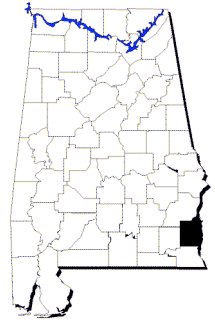
Honorable Charles W. Woodham

Henry County Courthouse
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Lawton Ed Armstrong
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Owen Bolan
Jamie Abshire
Betty Smith
Mickey Shelley
Penny Williams
Faye Shipps
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Council Priorities

1. Parental involvement

Provide information to parents regarding the availability of parenting classes.

2. Substance abuse

Focus on education regarding Juvenile Drug Abuse. Coordinate drug education resources in schools. Encourage court referral to assist in Juvenile AA Meeting/Classes and AL-Non parents.

3. Early child care

Provide transition from early intervention for families with Special Needs Children to school. Provide information to Day Care providers as to what is available for children with Special Needs. Provide education to parents and providers of 0-5 on Child Abuse Prevention. Provide information on parenting classes for at-risk families. Obtain information on programs and funds available through the office of School Readiness.

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county

Early Care Education

Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Early intervention for families with special needs children

Action Steps

- 1) Work with Henry County Board of Education to have children with special needs ready to transition to school.

Child abuse prevention

Action Steps

- 1) Provide education to parents and providers of 0-5 on child abuse prevention.
- 2) Provide information on parenting classes for at-risk families.

Head Start/Office of School Readiness

Action Steps

- 1) Research and determine if a Head Start in the Abbeville area would be cost effective.
- 2) Obtain information on programs and funds available through the Office of School Readiness.

Economic Security

Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Securing viable jobs for the work force

Action Steps

- 1) Support of the Henry County Economic Development Board.

Job training

Action Steps

- 1) School sponsored field trips to Wallace College to inform children of vocational trades.

Job fair

Action Steps

- 1) Hold a Job Fair to inform the children what jobs are availability.
- 2) Encourage local legislatures to encourage funding for summer job programs.
- 3) Stress to parents the need for their children to work.

Education

Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Quality early care and education

Action Steps

- 1) Increase funding for Pre-K programs, funding for child care and partnership programs.

Equal access to education

Action Steps

- 1) Projected dropout rate will decrease.
- 2) Increase in funding for Math/Science programs.
- 3) Standardized test scores will increase.
- 4) All students will complete their educational program.

Health

Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Child obesity

Action Steps

- 1) Provide early care and nutritional information.

Child dental health

Action Steps

- 1) Parental Education-emphasizes importance of early care and prevention.
- 2) Identify health risks.
- 3) Provide information to schools, physicians and related agencies regarding level of care offered in Henry County.
- 4) Provide assistance with Medicaid eligibility and access to dental providers.

Parent Involvement Skills

Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Parenting classes

Action Steps

- 1) Provide information to parents regarding the availability of parenting classes.

Parent conference day

Action Steps

- 1) Continue Parent-Teacher Conference Day with the School Board.

Safety

Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Juvenile violent crime

Action Steps

- 1) Acquire, fund, and fully operate Family Resource Center.

Substance abuse

Action Steps

- 1) Focus on education regarding Juvenile Drug Abuse.
- 2) Coordinate drug education resources in schools.
- 3) Encourage court referral to assist in Juvenile AA/Meetings/Classes.

Policy Recommendations

- Direct appropriation from the legislature or a contract with a state agency to provide funds to county CPC's or their Section 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporations of a specific amount per child (for example \$2.00). These funds could be used as matching funds to obtain grants or to provide direct services by the county CPC's.
- Begin a family resource center using funds in policy recommendation #1 as seed money.
- Establish a state agency on parental involvement (within the Department of Human Resources). This agency would be charged with the mission of developing state wide programs designed to promote greater parental involvement of parents in the lives of their children.